

and industrial ventures in our Nation's illustrious history.

COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF CUB SCOUT PACK 596 FROM ST. ALPHONSUS PARISH

HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2003

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in recognition of the 50th anniversary of Cub Scout Pack 596 from St. Alphonsus Parish in Greendale, Wisconsin. For the past five decades, the leaders, and members of Cub Scout Pack 596 have made invaluable contributions to their community, to Wisconsin, and to our country.

Since 1930, the Cub Scout have helped young boys learn new skills and civic responsibility. Character development, good citizenship, and personal achievement are among the ten purposes of cub scouting. Other goals include spiritual growth, family understanding, respectful relationships, sportsmanship and fitness, friendly service, and fun and adventure. Cub scouts earn merit badges in recognition for physical fitness and talent-building activities. As a former cub scout, I believe that the values I was taught as a member—respect for nature, for other people, and for ourselves—have helped to shape who I am today.

Pack 596 makes a difference in their community every year through programs such as Scouting for Food. In this program, scouts leave empty bags at homes in their neighborhood for the families to fill. The scouts then return the following weekend to take the food-filled bags to the local food pantry. Pack 596 also participates in a toy drive for needy children every Christmas. These boys have consistently worked to make the world a better place and steadfastly honored their motto to do their best.

Mr. Speaker, Cub Scout Pack 596 has served as a model for all cub scout packs for 50 years. They have set a high standard for cub scouts everywhere through their commitment to God and country and their dedication to helping develop the future leaders of our Nation.

COMMEMORATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2003

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, one hundred years ago, President Theodore Roosevelt displayed historic vision and took a bold step forward in his quest to protect our Nation's natural wonders. He decided that the plight of one group of birds on a scant five acres in Florida was important enough to warrant the protection of the Federal government. Roosevelt made this decision on March 14, 1903, continuing his commitment to protect American public lands. In creating a National Wildlife Refuge, however, Roosevelt brought the American public

on a great ideological departure from the principles underlying our National Park System: While those lands are set aside for the enjoyment and appreciation of people, wildlife refuges are for the sole benefit of wildlife. This ideological leap was truly historic, and I commend President Roosevelt and celebrate his enduring legacy.

Since the first refuge was established in our State in 1912, the Wisconsin refuge system has become an integral part of life for our citizens. Our five wildlife refuges and two wetlands management districts attract nearly two million visitors each year. They provide critical habitat for our State's world-renowned wildlife resources, as well as opportunities for recreation and groundbreaking research.

Horicon Marsh, covering 32,000 acres, is the largest fresh water cattail marsh in the United States and is designated as a "wetland of national importance." Tremplealeau, The Upper Mississippi River, and Horicon National Wildlife Refuges are designated as "globally important bird areas." And Necedah National Wildlife Refuge serves as the summer home for research experiments with the migration of highly endangered whooping cranes.

I wonder whether the President knew what he was setting in motion when he set aside those five seemingly inconsequential acres. Could he possibly have dreamed that such humble beginnings would flourish into the grand national wildlife refuge system that we boast today? That system now consists of more than 575 individual units and encompasses over 95 million acres. Refuges can be found in every State in the Union, protecting more than 250 threatened or endangered plants and animals, including such beloved and symbolic species as the manatee, bald eagle, and California jewelflower. These figures far exceed any expectations that President Roosevelt may have had. Our refuge system is truly a triumph of American vision and commitment to responsible stewardship of our unparalleled natural heritage.

I am proud to support the National Fish and Wildlife Service in its vital mission and grateful to be able to pass this legacy on to future generations of Americans.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO: MR. BRIAN BRADY

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today in order to recognize Brian Brady of Grand Junction, Colorado. Brian is a gifted young man whose dedication and entrepreneurship are a credit to his community. Today, I would like to pay tribute to his efforts before this body of Congress and this nation.

As an active member of the Grand Junction community, Brian serves on a variety of local boards and works with many organizations including three of the largest and most active organizations in Mesa County: the Rotary, United Way and the Mesa County Crime Stoppers. Brian's company, Brady MicroTech, creates and maintains websites and is currently the Webmaster of the Gene Taylor's Sporting Goods website, in charge of everything from

the creation of their online catalogue, to taking the photos of the store and maintaining customer relations. Brian has a lot on his plate, especially for a young man who is currently a senior at Central High School in Grand Junction.

A few years ago, Brian and few other young men, Ryan and Rob Cook, and Daniel Davis, approached a local radio station about a teen issues program. The radio station gave the boys an opportunity to broadcast their show, which became an amazing success. Currently, the show airs every Tuesday night from nine until ten o'clock and gives local teens a platform to discuss everything from local issues to the concerns on the mind of today's teenagers.

Brian is a true asset to the people of the Grand Valley, not only for his work with teens, but also for his contribution to local organizations and businesses. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I recognize this capable and gifted young man before this body of Congress and this nation. His dedication to community service is a credit to Mesa County and the entire State of Colorado.

COMMENDING THE 101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY

HON. JOHN S. TANNER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2003

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize the honorable service of the men and women of the 101st Airborne Division of the United States Army, who are again answering this nation's call to duty. They have already been deployed to the Persian Gulf in preparation for whatever conflict may lie ahead.

While international debate continues over the appropriate course of action, Mr. Speaker, it is easy for us to forget about the men and women who are already on the front line, preparing for the unknown, ready to accept the orders that are handed down.

There are almost 20,000 men and women stationed at Fort Campbell, which sits on the border between Tennessee and Kentucky. Fort Campbell is home to the 101st Airborne Division "Screaming Eagles," under the command of Maj. Gen. David Petraeus. The 101st Airborne Division has a long history of outstanding military service, playing key roles in World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam and Desert Storm.

From an Apache fighter-helicopter, the "Screaming Eagles" fired the very first shots in the Gulf War, taking out Iraqi communications and paving the way for the ground attack. In the ground war, the 101st made the longest and largest air assault in world history into enemy territory. About 4,500 "Rakkasans" from the division's 3rd Brigade also spent six months in Afghanistan, fighting in Operation Anaconda, one of the toughest fronts in this nation's war on terrorism.

Now, the men and women of the 101st are again answering the call to duty. The "Screaming Eagles" have left behind their families and their homes to set up camp in the desert. These brave soldiers know that their country may need them, and they are ready to serve.